STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL, CONCURRING

Re: Communications Marketplace Report, GN Docket No. 20-60

Today the Federal Communications Commission issues its second-ever communications marketplace report. In this report, we offer data about the state of competition in the mobile wireless market, the satellite market, and the video market. There is a lot of change underway, as the ways we watch and the networks we depend on to connect are evolving. So we look at the characteristics of each of these different industry segments, the state of deployment of communications capabilities, and the barriers to entry. We also provide data about broadband, including an examination of how the United States fares vis-à-vis other countries.

This report is important because it can inform the work of this agency as well as other federal and state authorities, and Congress. For consumers, today's report offers what may be one of the most comprehensive sources of public data about the state of the services they receive, including the latest iterations of the Measuring Broadband America reports.

But while this overall report is full of facts and figures, it also falls short. Following our inaugural production of this report two years ago, I suggested we should use this proceeding to identify the transformational changes that are taking place across these services from both the provider and user perspective. This discussion could also include how these changes may create opportunities for market entry or conversely, further increase barriers to entry. I think now, during a global pandemic when so much of modern life has migrated online and depends on communications, this kind of analysis would be especially useful. I regret that today's report does not correct course and offer this analysis.

Moreover, I believe that the roadmap set forth in this report does not adequately reflect the magnitude of the work ahead for this agency. Earlier this week, a new appropriations law directed the FCC to establish an Emergency Broadband Benefit program. This effort is designed to expand access to high-speed service and address the persistent challenges with affordability that prevent us from making broader progress addressing the digital divide. These issues of adoption merit serious discussion but regrettably are barely present in this report. In addition, this law tasks the agency with expanded support for telehealth and provides the funding needed to replace network equipment that presents a security risk. These new legislative tasks along with those in existing statutes are a reminder that we have serious work to do to ensure that safe and reliable services reach 100% of our population—in rural areas, urban areas, and everything in-between.